



# Out of the way in a very good way.

By Joquita Burka



*Sometimes you can find the most interesting things in the most out-of-the-way places. You top a hill and see a giant peach (the Peachoid, Gaffney, SC), you drive down a lane that opens into the country's oldest landscaped garden (Middleton Place, Charleston, SC), or cross a bridge and come upon an oak, the nation's oldest, that shades 17,000 square feet (Angel Oak, Johns Island, SC). South Carolina constantly surprises.*

**SMALL TOWN. BIG HISTORY.** Boykin, SC. Population 200. Unlike any other place, Boykin is ideal for giving the kids an authentic taste of history. At this Civil War battlesite is the 150+-year-old gristmill, still grinding meal and grits with now-cool-again waterpower. Here is The Broom Place, making brooms using century-old equipment. And most unexpected is The Mill Pond Steakhouse, a restaurant ranked by *Fodor's Travel Guide* as one of South Carolina's finest. The restaurant is comprised of three buildings from the early 19th century: the kitchen was the old Post Office, the bar was the old General Store and the main dining room was another General Store relocated to its present location. Here is a delicious taste of history. »

## **The Mill Pond Steakhouse**

84 Boykin Mill Road

Rembert, SC 29128

803-425-8825 or [themillpondsteakhouse.com](http://themillpondsteakhouse.com)



**READY FOR ANYTHING.** How humiliating. You're ready for your first big backpacking trip, and you show up with all the wrong stuff! Why subject yourself to the laughter when you can get the right brands (plus the expert advice) with a trip to Sunrift Adventures? Everything you might need for backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, climbing, cycling or just looking like you can do it is here in this little town of Travelers Rest, SC. Here's the extra bonus—these guys actually do all these things. So, you can head into the great South Carolina outdoors and be ready for whatever comes your way.

**Sunrift Adventures**

1 Center Street  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
864-834-3019 or [sunrift.com](http://sunrift.com)

**SERIOUS SPORT.** Deer, duck, wild hog, pheasants and quail hunts. Sporting clays. Bass fishing. And trail rides. Broxton Bridge Plantation is a 7,000-acre sporting paradise—and has been since the late 1700s. Today, the plantation is owned by ninth-generation family member G.D. "Jerry" Varn who runs the place like an old-fashioned hunting lodge. Accommodations, dining, camping and an on-site airstrip make this a perfect hunting retreat.

**Broxton Bridge Plantation**

1685 Broxton Bridge Road  
Ehrhardt, SC 29081  
800-437-HUNT or [broxtonbridge.com](http://broxtonbridge.com)

**FOUR DIAMONDS IN LATTA.** The little town of Latta, SC, just off I-95, has a secret—a AAA Four-Diamond inn and restaurant. The 10,000-square-foot Greek Revival home, on the National Register of Historic Places, dates to the early 20th century. Restored to its glory in the form of a luxury inn, Abingdon Manor has distinguished itself with fine, personal service and gourmet cuisine. The seven guest rooms feature private baths, fireplaces, WiFi and every amenity you might desire. Step into The Dining Room at Abingdon Manor for a taste of Executive Chef Patty Griffey's creations. Or go behind the scenes with one of the culinary weekends which includes accommodations, cooking classes and, of course, an abundance of delicious sampling.

**Abingdon Manor An Extraordinary Inn & Restaurant**

307 Church Street  
Latta, SC 29565  
843-752-5090 or [abingdonmanor.com](http://abingdonmanor.com)



Photo courtesy of Jeff Osborn.





Photo courtesy of Jeff Osborn.



**WANNA SEE SOMETHING REALLY SCARY?** Then head to the woods—the Wompus Woods. As the legend goes, the Wompus Monster lives from late spring to late fall in the South Carolina woods and moves into the Louisiana bayou for the rest of the year. What a convenient legend for the owners of a 16-acre trail that operates for about 20 days, beginning on the second weekend in October. Teenagers, families, church groups and couples come from miles around to scream and panic for 30-45 minutes as they take on the Wompus Woods. It's definitely the local favorite around Halloween.

#### Wompus Woods

330 Parris Road  
Cowpens, SC 29330  
864-578-6175 or [wompuswoods.com](http://wompuswoods.com)

**RIDE ON!** You're flying downhill, teeth rattling, bones jarring, mud flying and you're stoked—grinning from ear to ear. You must be a mountain biker. And you know the best part of being off the beaten path is being WAY off the beaten path. The Sumter National Forest is veined with trails for your epic ride. One of the best is the Stevens Creek Bike Trail, which can be accessed through Hamilton Branch State Recreation Area. The seven-mile in-and-out trail connects to Turkey Creek Trail for an even longer ride. Good technical challenges, great views, lots of creek crossings. But don't be an organ donor. Wear your brain bucket. Maps at [sctrails.net](http://sctrails.net).

#### Sumter National Forest

Long Cane Ranger District  
810 Buncombe Street  
Edgefield, SC 29824  
803-637-5396 🌲

## CAROLINA FOOTHILLS ARTISAN CENTER

*Representing 100 emerging and established artists and artisans, the Artisan Center is known for its outstanding displays of paintings, ceramics, metals, jewelry, turned wood, and other forms of art from the Carolinas and is a "must stop" for anyone traveling in the area.*

### DOWNTOWN CHESNEE, SC

*"A destination community of quaint shops, striking architecture, Revolutionary War Battlefield, mountains and lakes".*

**Hours • Monday-Saturday • 10:00AM-5:30PM**

Located 10 miles north of exit 78 On I-85  
and 13 miles east of exit 5 on I-26

Carolina Foothills Artisan Center is a member organization of  
The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg

[www.cfac.us](http://www.cfac.us)

**ON SCENIC HIGHWAY 11**